



FARM FACTS

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Wheat Production Down 12 Percent

Tennessee's 2001 wheat production is estimated at 18.4 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year and the lowest level since 1998. Producers sowed 500,000 acres of winter wheat last fall, off 50,000 from the previous season, and harvested 340,000 acres for grain, down 11 percent from 2000. Wheat acreage used for silage, hay, or as a cover crop totaled 160,000. Yields averaged 54 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from a year ago and only 2 bushels less than 1999's record breaking yield. Seeding of the 2001 crop began on schedule in early October 2000, but dry conditions during the month and into November delayed or prevented plantings.

Frequent rains during the last half of November brought a halt to any additional wheat being sown. Development progressed at a normal pace and the crop was rated as being in mostly good condition throughout the growing season. An armyworm infestation in May, however, caused significant damage to some acreage, resulting in a few fields being abandoned or cut for hay instead of grain. Wet weather the first of June slowed the start of wheat harvest, but producers made excellent progress the remainder of the month and were virtually completed by the first of July.

U.S. Wheat Production

All wheat production in the United States totaled 1.96 billion bushels in 2001, down 2 percent from the last forecast and 12 percent below 2000. This is the lowest production since 1988. Grain area is 48.7 million acres, down 8 percent from last year and the smallest area harvested since 1972. The U.S. yield is 40.2 bushels per acre, down 1.8 bushels from a year ago. The 2001 U.S. winter wheat production is estimated at 1.36 billion bushels, the lowest level since 1978. This is down 2 percent from the August forecast and 13 percent below the 2000 level. The U.S. yield decreased 0.3 bushel from August to 43.5 bushels per acre. This is 1.2 bushels below last year's final yield. Acreage for grain is estimated at 31.3 million acres, down 1 percent from the last forecast and the smallest harvested area since 1933. Planted area is 41.1 million acres, down 1 percent from the last forecast.

Winter Wheat: Tennessee, Surrounding States, and U.S., Final, 2001 with Comparisons

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Alabama	90	70	54.0	48.0	4,860	3,360
Arkansas	1,100	970	54.0	52.0	59,400	50,440
Georgia	200	200	54.0	53.0	10,800	10,600
Kentucky	420	360	57.0	66.0	23,940	23,760
Mississippi	235	225	55.0	52.0	12,925	11,700
Missouri	950	760	52.0	54.0	49,400	41,040
North Carolina	550	470	50.0	39.0	27,500	18,330
Tennessee	380	340	55.0	54.0	20,900	18,360
Virginia	205	170	63.0	60.0	12,915	10,200
United States	35,072	31,295	44.7	43.5	1,566,023	1,361,479

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters)
Prior to September 15, by Crop, State, and United States, Crop Years 1998-2001**

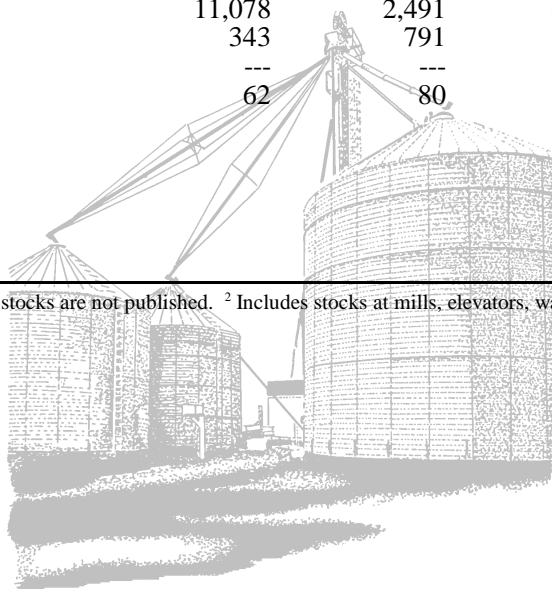
State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1998	1999	2000	2001
All Cotton				
AL ¹	10,050	5,300	12,200	---
AZ	5,900	7,600	25,300	16,850
AR	13,550	18,200	26,400	26,250
CA ¹	0	0	---	1,700
FL ¹	---	---	---	---
GA	18,000	10,800	3,700	1,650
LA	17,950	50,350	122,700	4,550
MS	42,900	71,200	125,700	16,900
MO	1,850	12,200	5,200	6,800
NM ¹	0	0	---	---
NC ¹	---	0	0	0
OK ¹	---	---	---	0
SC ¹	10,250	---	700	---
Tennessee	8,000	7,150	22,250	6,400
TX	609,250	835,300	1,108,000	720,000
VA	0	0	0	0
US	738,500	1,018,350	1,453,850	801,700

¹ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins, but included in the U.S. totals.

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., September 1, 2001 with Comparisons

Crop	Tennessee			United States		
	Sept 1, 2000	Jun 1, 2001	Sept 1, 2001	Sept 1, 2000	Jun 1, 2001	Sept 1, 2001
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks¹						
Corn				793,000	2,230,800	753,150
Wheat				808,390	197,270	696,850
Soybeans				112,500	365,000	83,500
Grain Sorghum				12,200	19,000	8,900
Oats				101,200	32,050	74,800
Off-Farm Stocks²						
Corn	1,320	4,660	1,413	924,549	1,693,158	1,145,557
Wheat	11,078	2,491	8,321	1,544,280	678,912	1,458,613
Soybeans	343	791	247	177,662	343,180	164,433
Grain Sorghum	---	---	13	53,175	57,411	32,851
Oats	62	80	93	49,177	40,677	40,923
Total Stocks						
Corn				1,717,549	3,923,958	1,898,707
Wheat				2,352,670	876,182	2,155,463
Soybeans				290,162	708,180	247,933
Grain Sorghum				65,375	76,411	41,751
Oats				150,377	72,727	115,723

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.



U.S. Hog Inventory: U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2001, was 58.6 million head, 1 percent below September 2000, but 1 percent above June 1, 2001. Breeding inventory, at 6.16 million head, was down 1 percent from September 1, 2000, and down slightly from June 1, 2001. Market hog inventory, at 52.5 million head, was 1 percent below last year, but 1 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 25.0 million head, was 2 percent less than 2000, and 3 percent less than 1999. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 46 percent of the breeding herd. Average pigs per litter was 8.82 pigs saved per litter for the June-August 2001 period, compared to 8.84 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the September-November 2001 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2000, and 1 percent above 1999. Intended farrowings for December 2001-February 2002, at 2.84 million sows, are 3 percent above the same period in 2001, and up 1 percent from 2000.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 35 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 33 percent last year.

Downturn in U.S. Cattle Cycle Continues: Current indications for 2001 show that the nation's cattle herd is declining slightly, continuing the downturn in the current cattle cycle. Looking at the cattle cycle on a January 1 basis, this is the fifth year of the downturn in the cattle cycle after 6 years of increase during the upturn. Cattle numbers have declined 6.2 million head during the downturn compared with an increase of 7.7 million head during the upturn. Adding the 6.2 million head to market supplies during the downturn has mostly offset the effects of smaller calf crops. The beef cow herd, the foundation of the total cattle inventory, has declined 1.9 million head since January 1, 1996, after gaining 2.9 million head during the 6-year upturn.

The July 1, 2001, Cattle report indicated the nation's cattle herd, at 105.8 million head, was continuing to decline slightly, down 500,000 head from a year earlier. Both the beef cow and milk cow herds were down 100,000 head. Also, both beef and milk replacement heifers were down 100,000 head. The 2001 calf crop was estimated at 38.4 million head, down 221,000 head or 0.6 percent. U.S. cattle on feed on July 1 were up 7 percent or 800,000 head.

The July 1, 2001, Cattle on Feed report indicated that placements of heifers in feedlots continued heavy, indicating herds were not rebuilding. Heifer slaughter also continues to run at a high level. Even with harsh winter and spring conditions in many cow-calf regions during 2000-2001, cow slaughter averaged around 16 percent of total slaughter for the first half of 2001. This remains below the 17-18 percent average when inventory levels were increasing. The lower cow slaughter indicates the cow herd is smaller and producers may be retaining cows in the herd longer, but the relatively larger increase in heifer slaughter indicates herds are not rebuilding.

A larger proportion of the calf crop going into feedlots, increased feeder imports, and heavier fed cattle are largely the reason why U.S. beef production has continued to trend upward although the herd has trended downward. Beef production per cow has now increased nearly 200 pounds per head, or over 40 percent, over the last 20 years. Also, both the average live weight and dressed weight of cattle have increased about 100 pounds each over the past 20 years.

There are no significant signs of expansion since replacement heifer numbers are down and placements of heifers in feedlots remain heavy. At the same time, the percentage of the calf crop slaughtered as calves is at a record low level (which suggests it is not likely to go much lower given there is a veal market) and the steer and heifer inventory has declined by 2.0 million head. These factors point to reduced future cattle supplies, which should support both future calf and fed cattle prices. On the other hand, increased imports and continued heavy placements of heifers and lighter weight calves have added to feedlot supplies. These factors have tended to moderate cattle prices, especially fed cattle, and will be a major influence on the strength of future cattle prices.

Excerpt from September 21, 2001 Release, *U.S. Cattle Supplies and Disposition*, available at www.usda.gov/nass/.

U.S. Prices Received Index Down 3 Points: The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in September was 106 based on 1990-92=100, down 3 points (2.8 percent) from the August Index. Higher prices for lettuce, milk, broilers, and wheat were partially offset by lower prices for hogs, soybeans, strawberries, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, broilers, wheat, and milk were partially offset by higher marketings of soybeans, peanuts, corn, and potatoes. Compared with September 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 9 points (9.3 percent) higher. Price increases from September 2000 for milk, corn, broilers, and cattle were partially offset by lower prices for cotton, apples, tomatoes, and turkeys.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., September 2001 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		September	August ¹	September ²	September	August ¹	September ²
		2000	2001	2001	2000	2001	2001
Dollars Per Unit							
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.18	2.54	---	2.37	2.71	2.77
Corn	bu.	1.72	2.10	2.05	1.61	1.90	1.92
Cotton Lint	lb.	.537	.351	.395	.506	.360	.343
Soybeans	bu.	4.79	5.05	4.80	4.57	4.83	4.59
All hogs	cwt.	39.60	---	---	41.60	50.60	45.80
Sows	cwt.	36.00	---	---	34.20	39.40	35.50
Barrows & gilts	cwt.	40.00	---	---	42.10	51.30	46.30
All beef cattle	cwt.	62.40	67.20	66.20	65.30	70.70	70.00
Steers/heifers	cwt.	80.00	84.00	83.00	68.60	73.60	73.00
Cows	cwt.	36.00	42.00	41.00	37.20	43.10	41.60
Calves	cwt.	90.00	92.00	92.00	103.00	106.00	106.00

¹ Entire month. ² Mid-month.

Record High U.S. Potato Production; Value Drops 6 Percent: Total 2000 potato production is estimated at 514 million cwt, up 7 percent from 1999, and 3 percent above the previous record high in 1996. Harvested area, at 1.35 million acres, gained 1 percent from 1999. The average yield of 381 cwt per acre was a record high, up 22 cwt from 1999. By season, winter production jumped 22 percent, and for comparable States, summer gained 5 percent; fall was up 8 percent; and spring production fell 13 percent. Value of all potato production in 2000 was estimated at \$2.59 billion, down 6 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$5.08 per cwt, fell 69 cents from a year earlier.